In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please add new claim 32 and cancel claims 9, 12, and 23. Claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-22, and 24-32 are pending, with claims 1, 11, 17, 25-28, and 32 being the independent claims. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ text. No new matter is added by these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end;

an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;

an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;

a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;

at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of a solid object;

a sensory output generator;

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the body and communicating with the passage; and

an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of an object through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the object.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the input aperture and output aperture are substantially vertically disposed with respect to one another.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the at least one member is configured to redirect the movement of the object as it passes through the passage.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus resembles a toy giraffe.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the object is a toy block.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensory output is at least one of a visual and an audible output.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is a compression switch.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is located substantially at the output aperture and configured to generate a sensory output when the object exits the output aperture.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the actuator is configured to be triggered by engagement by the object.

11. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a toy block~~solid object~~ at an input aperture defined at a first end of a channel, the channel disposed within a body having a base configured to support the body on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane;

displacing the toy block~~object~~ along the channel;

redirecting the toy block~~object~~;

receiving the toy block~~object~~ at an output aperture defined at a second end of the channel, the output aperture being substantially vertically offset from the input aperture, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed; and

generating an output via an output generator when the toy block~~object~~ is received at the output aperture.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the displacing the toy block~~object~~ is caused by a gravitational force.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the generating an output includes generating a sensory output.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the output generator generates the output based on engagement of an actuator by the toy block~~object~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, the actuator being a compression switch, the method further comprising:

depressing the compression switch in response to engagement of the actuator by the toy block~~object~~.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output;

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding structure and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output; and

an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by a solid object.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, the guiding structure being configured to guide an object, the apparatus further comprising:

at least one member configured to redirect a path of the object as it is displaced from the input to the output.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the object is a toy block.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the output is one of an audible and a visual output.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the actuator is configured to be engaged by the object as it passes through the guiding structure to the output.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the actuator is a compression switch.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the guiding structure resembles a toy giraffe.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end;

an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;

an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;

a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;

at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of a toy block;

a sensory output generator; and

an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of a toy block through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the toy block.

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end;

an input aperture defined proximate the first end of the body;

an output aperture defined proximate to the second end of the body and spaced apart from the input aperture;

a passage disposed in the body and extending from the input aperture to the output aperture;

at least one member disposed in the passage, the member being configured to redirect a movement of an object;

a sensory output generator;

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the body and communicating with the passage, the viewing apertures configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output; and

an actuator coupled to the sensory output generator, disposed to detect movement of an object through the passage, and configured to provide an input to the sensory output generator upon detecting movement of the object.

27. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a toy block at an input aperture defined at a first end of a channel;

displacing the toy block along the channel;

redirecting the toy block;

receiving the toy block at an output aperture defined at a second end of the channel, the output aperture being substantially vertically offset from the input aperture; and

generating an output via an output generator when the toy block is received at the output aperture.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output; and

an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by a toy block.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

a plurality of viewing apertures defined by the guiding and configured to permit viewing of an object as it moves from the input to the output.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the body includes a base configured to support the body on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the guiding structure includes a base configured to support the guiding structure on a surface, the base being disposed within a plane, the output aperture being in a plane substantially orthogonal to the plane in which the base is disposed.

32. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a guiding structure, the guiding structure having an input and an output, the input spaced from the output, the guiding structure being configured to guide a toy block;

an actuator disposed adjacent to the output;

at least one member configured to redirect a path of the toy block as it is displaced from the input to the output; and

an output generator coupled to the actuator and configured to generate an output in response to engagement of the actuator by a toy block.